

# THE REAL COST OF SCHOOL IN 2019

An infographic from  Barnardos

## About the survey

Carried out in



Number of parents surveyed

1,402

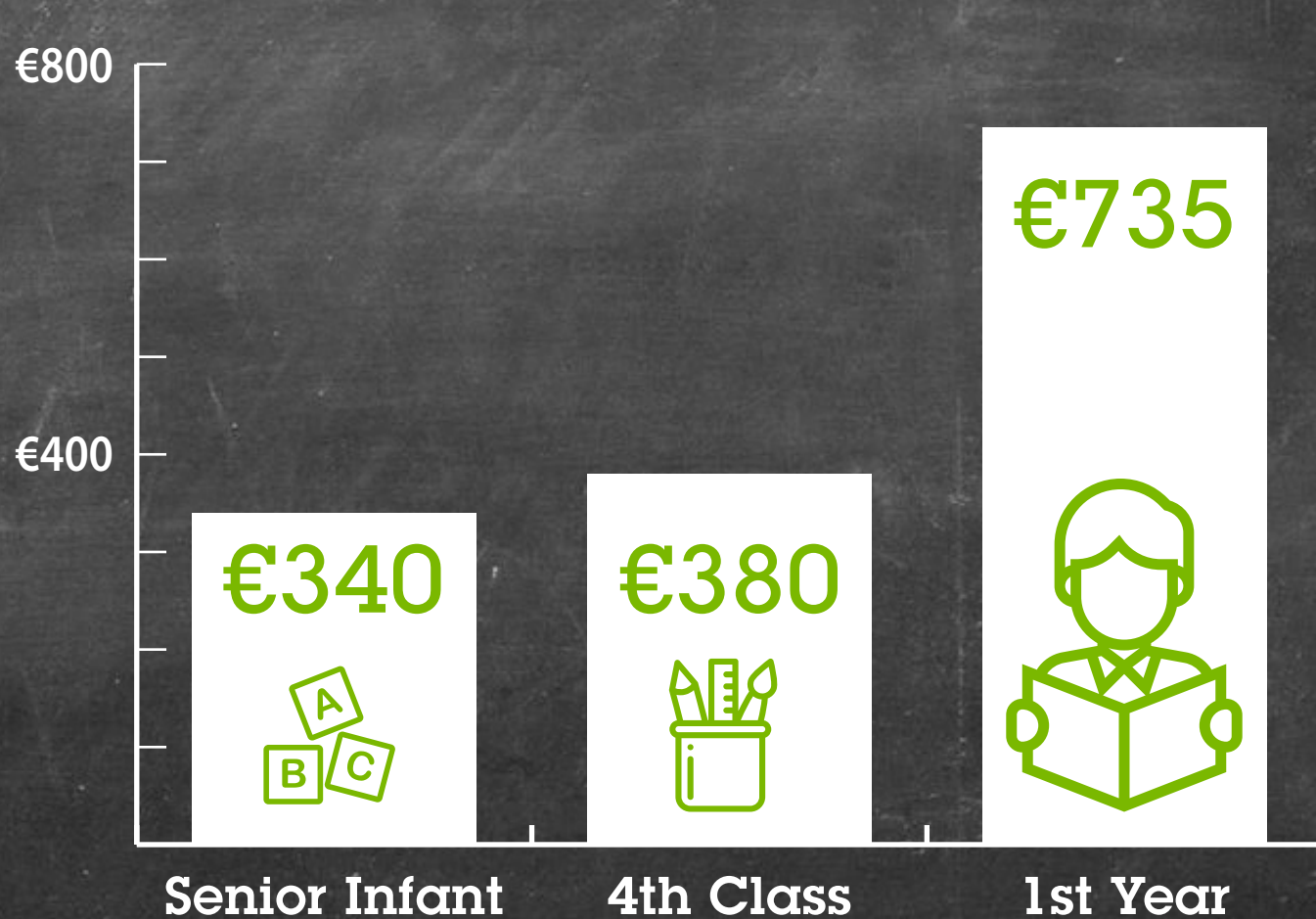
Primary / Secondary split

63% Primary



37% Secondary

## Snapshot: average basic school costs in 2019



## Key feedback



Parents are **frustrated** about the **substantial costs** of getting their children ready to return to school in September and want the government to invest in education.



**Books:** 51% of primary school parents and 46% of secondary school parents reported that their children's **book costs** had gone up this year.



**Uniform:** 75% of primary and 95% of secondary children are **still required** to wear a **crested uniform** despite the availability of cheaper options.



**Voluntary Contribution:** Over two-thirds of parents were **asked for voluntary contributions**. 67% responding to the primary school survey and 69% to the secondary school survey.



**Additional Costs:** 65% of primary school parents indicated that they pay classroom resources fees; 78% of secondary school parents pay classroom resources fees.

## How parents are paying for school

### Cutting back or not paying bills

42%

primary school parents

47%

secondary school parents



### Borrowing money

8%

primary school parents

14%

secondary school parents



"Summer time should be a time spent on the children but instead it is spent worrying about having enough for September, all year round, education leaves us with nothing left, and struggling".

"I have been buying school supplies and uniform pieces since March to ensure I have everything for September. The uniform allowance is saved to pay for her schoolbooks in September as the school gets the workbooks and books and then we pay them".

"I am not able to budget out of our regular household income to pay for my child going to school and will need to borrow money from [named money lender company] and from the credit union to help me prepare her for secondary school".

- Comments from parents

## What needs to be done to fix this?

### Key recommendation from Barnardos for Budget 2020

Uphold children's constitutional right to free primary education by introducing **free school books** for primary school pupils. This would cost €20m or 0.2% of the education budget in #Budget2020. Move towards a truly free education system in subsequent Budgets.



For more results and analysis visit:

[barnardos.ie/SchoolCosts19](https://barnardos.ie/SchoolCosts19)